COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday October 13th, 2026, 5:30 P.M.
City Hall Council Chambers
115 N 3rd Street

The Council of the City of Oregon met Tuesday October 13th, 2026, at 5:30 P.M.

The meeting was held at City Hall in the Council Chambers and on Zoom.

Present:	Mayor Ken Williams Council Member Terry Schuster Council Member Melanie Cozzi Council Member Josiah Flanagan City Manager Darin DeHaan Chief of Police Matt Kalnins City Attorney Paul Chadwick City Clerk Cheryl Hilton
Also Present:	Mike Arians, Bill Covell, John Dickson, Mark Herman, Liz Hiemstra, Earleen Hinton, Josh Pickering, and Scott Wallace.

Mayor Ken Williams called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Council Members Cozzi, Flanagan, Schuster, and Mayor Williams answered roll call. A quorum was present.

City Manager Darin DeHaan started the pledge of allegiance.

Proclamations, Commendations, Swear In, Etc.

Mayor Ken Williams and City Manager Darin DeHaan presented Public Works Director Bill Covell with a letter of commendation and two employee recognition coins, Building Mastery and Skill and Inspirational Leadership. He has handled some very complex problems with great leadership.

Presentations

None.

Public Comment

John Dickson made comments regarding an increase in council salaries. He said he believes the increase is fair and has already been established. He said the current ordinance regarding council salaries is out of date and needs to be updated. He also spoke regarding the RV ordinance. He said the ordinance needs further consideration. He would like to see the city council sponsor the ordinance and then it be developed by the city manager. He also said the ordinance needs full council representation. He said the citizens representation has been diminished since Council Member Krug has resigned. He doesn't believe the ordinance is ready for a vote and should be tabled or defeated. Mayor Ken Williams explained the usage of legal terms in the ordinance.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve September 22nd, 2026, minutes, Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

Roll Call: Flanagan, Schuster, Williams. No Nays. Abstain: Cozzi.

Council Member Melanie Cozzi moved to approve September 29th, 2026, minutes, Seconded by Council Member Terry Schuster.

Roll Call: Cozzi, Flanagan, Schuster, Williams. No Nays.

Approval of Warrants & Payroll

Council Member Josiah Flanagan moved to approve payroll in the amount of $79,025.70 and the current warrants as listed:

Ace Hardware & Outdoor Center	$640.00
All Traffic Solutions	$11,307.63
Amazon Capital Services, Inc	$1,396.44
Ancel Glink, P.C.	$3,155.00
APWA Illinois Chapter	$850.00
Axon Enterprises Inc	$9,456.30
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois	$25,951.45
Boot Barn, Inc	$647.44
Butitta Auto - Oregon	$135.41
Cassie Rogers	$200.00
City of Oregon	$562,000.00
City of Rockford	$264.00
Civic Plus LLC	$3,125.59
Coliseum of Art, Antiques & Americana	$3,454.00
Comcast	$285.47
ComEd	$3,705.71
Core & Main LP	$609.24
Director, Illinois State Police	$1,106.00
Ecolab	$150.00
Envision Healthcare	$227.00
Fidelity Security Life Insurance	$175.40
Frontier	$256.57
Frontier	$300.09
Hach Company	$134.78
Harpers Outdoor Solutions	$3,346.00
Harpers Outdoor Solutions	$7,500.00
Hawkins	$773.96
Hey Tree Service, LLC	$14,300.00
Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police	$260.00
Illinois EPA	$58,374.60
Jacob & Klein, Ltd	$985.25
John Kaltenbach	$200.00
Kaleel's Clothing	$231.00
Ken Williams	$183.76
Lanelight Traffic Technologies, Inc	$3,759.70
Legacy Prints	$553.00
Liz Hiemstra	$20.48
Locis	$175.00
Martin and Company Excavating	$11,880.76
Martin and Company Excavating	$36,186.48
Martin and Company Excavating	$171,342.66
MCS	$145.00

Melanie Cozzi	$80.00
Menards	$201.87
Merlins Greenhouse and Flowers	$6,770.00
Nicholas Izer	$200.00
Northern Illinois Disposal Services	$25,685.64
Oregon Snyders	$84.43
Oregon SuperValu	$134.60
Pace Analytical Services, LLC	$1,459.50
Pest Control Consultants	$348.00
Quill	$64.36
Rat Worx, Inc	$180.00
Region 1 Planning Council	$625.00
Sauk Valley Media	$91.31
Shawn Melville	$250.00
Stillman BancCorp	$2,627.01
Stratus Networks	$66.32
Sun Life Financial	$434.01
SundogIT, LLC	$2,641.22
Terry Lester	$66.28
The Economic Development Group	$3,941.00
The Police & Sheriffs Press	$260.00
Uniform Den East, Inc	$238.25
Van Buren Equipment Service	$2,467.50
Village of Progress	$1,280.00
Visa	$3,253.83
Visit NW Illinois	$50.00
WYOT-FM 102.3 The Coyote	$45.00
	$993,296.30

Seconded by Council Member Terry Schuster.

Roll Call: Cozzi, Flanagan, Schuster, Williams. No Nays.

Ordinances

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve Ordinance 2026-013 Parking or Storage of Recreational Vehicles and Trailers, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

Discussion: Council Member Terry Schuster said the language is difficult, but he is ok with it. Mayor Ken Williams said a lot things were struck from the ordinance. He said basically if it is old, beat up, and has weeds growing under it, the city does not allow it. You are also not allowed to live in it for more than fourteen days. The permit requirement was struck from the ordinance and if you need more than fourteen days, the chief of police can be contacted for an extension. City Manager Darin DeHaan said he did share with the city council pictures of campers that residents had complained about. This has been an ongoing issue for over a decade and had never been addressed specifically. He said he did have a resident reach out in support of the ordinance. Council Member Terry Schuster said ninety-nine percent of residents in town, this ordinance would not pertain to. It is just for the couple the city receives complaints about. He said it is too bad we have to go through all this work just to make that point. Property values are important to people. Council Member Melanie Cozzi said just like we ask residents to keep their lawns mowed and tidied up. Council Member Josiah Flanagan said he is ok with moving on with the ordinance, it’s nice to see the properties up kept and nice and clean.

Roll Call: Cozzi, Flanagan, Schuster, Williams. No Nays.

Resolutions

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve Resolution 2026-012 for Candlelight Walk intermittent closing of Rt 2 for Carriage Rides, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

Discussion: Mayor Ken Williams said the city approves a resolution every year for this event for the carriage rides. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the cocoa hut will be moved into John Phelps kitchen, expanding the event to both blocks of Franklin Street. The committee asked to change the route this year. The new route will go to Monroe Street instead of Franklin Street. The carriage rides may start at Sarah Phelps Plaza.

Roll Call: Cozzi, Flanagan, Schuster, Williams. No Nays.

Motions

Council Member Josiah Flanagan moved to approve the Proposal from Boss Roofing in the amount of $19,799.91 and authorize the City Manager to Sign the Agreement and Manage the Project on behalf of the city, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan said the proposal is for emergency repairs to the Coliseum roof. He said nineteen thousand is beyond his spending limit, which is why it has come to council. The city has used Boss in the past, and we won't know the full cost until they start the project. Mayor Ken Williams said the limit technically needing council approval is twenty-five thousand dollars and there is no one in the city that can approve up to twenty-four thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine dollars therefore it has come to council. Bids were received by other companies and expenditures up to twenty-five thousand can be made in-house normally. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the spending limit set in the policy previously approved will need to be amended.

Roll Call: Cozzi, Flanagan, Schuster, Williams. No Nays.

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve the Bid Proposal from L&L Builders in the amount of $67,610.00 for City Hall Renovation and Authorize the City Manager to Sign the Agreement and Manage the Project on behalf of the city, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

Discussion: City Manager Darin DeHaan said the project will expand into city hall storage space to create more office space. The proposal includes HVAC. He said money has been set aside for capital infrastructure, and the current balance is eighty-five thousand dollars. Forty thousand dollars in gaming funds has also been budgeted to that account as well. Ninety-three thousand seven hundred and twenty dollars are available in the fund this year after the gaming funds are moved. Council Member Melanie Cozzi asked if there would still be access through the garage and to the other half of the building. City Manager Darin DeHaan said yes, when the police department was redesigned, one bay was left as a sally port for transporting suspects. Someone could be escorted into the building, but it would not be as secure. Council Member Melanie Cozzi asked if the police department would be impacted. Chief of Police Matt Kalnins said it is used occasionally.

Roll Call: Cozzi, Flanagan, Schuster, Williams. No Nays.

Council Member Terry Schuster moved to approve the Annual Treasurer's Report, Seconded by Council Member Melanie Cozzi.

Discussion: Mayor Ken Williams said it was handed out prior and is a state requirement. It is a statement of revenues and expenses. All government units must complete it. It will be published in the newspaper.

Roll Call: Cozzi, Flanagan, Schuster, Williams. No Nays.

Discussion Items

Filling Remaining Term of Council Member Krug: Attorney Paul Chadwick said the city received a resignation letter from Council Member Krug specifying immediate resignation. The duration of the vacancy depends on when the resignation occurred in relation to his unexpired term. If it is more than twenty-eight months before the end of his term, which it was, and if it was during a time when petitions were still available and the due date for petitions for the next election had not come and gone, which we are in that period yet, the Mayor has the ability to appoint someone to fill the vacancy with the advice and consent of the council until the next election. At the April election, someone would run for a two-year term, which would be the remainder of Council Member Krug's term. That person could be a different person than who filled the vacancy, the council has authority to name a person to fill the vacancy until the election determines who will fill it for two years. The elected council member would then take his or her seat on May 1st and would be sworn in. Mayor Ken Williams said the petitions would need to state which term the person is running for, either the two-year term or the four-year term. There are sixty days from the accepted resignation to appoint the council member. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the position has been advertised. The city will be accepting letters of interest and resumes until the 23rd of October.

Board & Commission Reports

Economic and Community Development: Liz Hiemstra said the IHDA community revitalization housing stock survey training is being held at city hall on Thursday October 29th at 1pm and at Cork & Tap at 5pm. Council Member Terry Schuster said the results of the survey will allow the city to apply for grants. Liz Hiemstra said rating a home can be completed on your own time and volunteers are needed.

Sustainability: Council Member Melanie Cozzi said the committee met today and discussed ideas for next year's Rock River Sweep event. They are also close to launching the Eco Oregon program.

Tree Board: The last meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum; Josh Pickering has provided materials for the Tree Board to review at the next meeting.

Department & Officer Reports

Chief of Police Matt Kalnins: Thanked AOP volunteers and the Public Works department. They worked long hours and did a phenomenal job.

Public Works Director Bill Covell: Thanked Mayor Ken Williams and City Manager Darin DeHaan for the commendation. He thanked the Police Department for everything during AOP. He said everyone works as a team. The initial leaf vac pickup was completed today. There were issues with cars being parked in front of leaf piles. He asked for everyone to leave at least thirty feet around the leaf pile so they can be picked up. The schedule is broken into three two-week pickups. He said make sure leaves are out at the beginning of the pickup week; public works will be making only one pass through town.

City Clerk Cheryl Hilton: Mayor Ken Williams asked when petition packets were due in for anyone running for office. Packets should be turned in the 19th through the 26th of October.

Council Reports

Council Member Melanie Cozzi: Thanked Bill. She said he has done an awesome job, and it is nice to see him get this commendation. She said she has been here for almost eight years, and the department has never looked better, due to his leadership and the crew that he works with. She also said this is her third year working the sanitation department at AOP with Earleen Hinton. She said

this is the fastest they have ever cleaned up. The volunteers with the golf team through the high school were exceptional. It's wonderful working with students and seeing them serving the community but also seeing what it takes to run an event like this and how to be involved with your community. Hopefully, it carries with them into adulthood, and they continue to serve in their community.

Mayor Ken Williams: He said what makes AOP great is the volunteers, a number of which are in this room. He said one of the things a lot of people in small town rural government don't appreciate enough is social capital. The people who are willing to get behind the city, and do the work, roll up their sleeves, be a part of it and provide input. We are very fortunate in our city people are willing to stand up and say what they like and don't like. Those are the folks that make the city what it is.

Council Member Melanie Cozzi moved to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Council Member Josiah Flanagan.

Roll Call: Cozzi, Flanagan, Schuster, Williams. No Nays.

Adjourn: 6:11 P.M.

_____
Ken Williams, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk